Tala Hydel Project

2198. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power from 170 MW first generating unit of the Rs. 4,124 Tala Project in Bhutan has started flowing into India from September;

(b) if so, whether the beneficiaries include northern region States of U.P., Delhi, Punjab and J&K;

(c) whether the remaining units of 1020 MW projects slated for commissioning shortly, will also help India in getting more power from Bhutan; and

(d) by when, the rest of the units are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) The first generating unit (170 MW) of Tala Project in Bhutan was commissioned on 29.7.2006 and the power has started flowing into India from August, 2006.

(b) Allocation of Tala power has been done to the States of Eastern Region to improve their hydro thermal mix and these States are to surrender equivalent thermal power (in lieu of allocation of Tala power) to the States of the Northern Region linked to the commissioning of various units of Tala project. The States likely to be benefited from the above arrangement are West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa in the Eastern Region and Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, U.P. and J&K in the Northern Region.

(c) 5 out of 6 units of Tala project have already been commissioned. As per the agreement between Government of India and Royal Government of Bhutan for Tala Project, power surplus of the requirement of Bhutan is to be sold to India.

(d) The last units is expected to be commissioned by end of March, 2007.

Plan to increase electricity generation

2199. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister, while dedicating the 3000 MW Talchar Super Thermal Power Station to the nation, assured the nation to provide big investment in power sector during the next five years;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission had estimated that the electricity generation capacity would need to go up from the current level of 1.31 lakh MW to more than 8 lakh MW by 2030;

(c) if so, whether any concrete action plan has been prepared by Government to increase the electricity generation as projected by Planning Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The report of the Expert Committee on Integrated Energy Policy has estimated that the power generation capacity, inclusive of captive plants, must increase to 8,00,000 MW in 2031-32 from the current level.

(c) and (d) Identification of new generation projects and their execution is ongoing process. To increase the generation capacity in line with the growth in demand of electricity, the steps taken, *inter alia,* include:—

(i) Proposal of a capacity addition of 76,460 MW during 11th Plan to meet the requirements.

(ii) Creation of a National Grid for optimum utilization of generation capacity and inter-regional transfer of power.

(iii) Implementation of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW each to achieve benefit of economy of scale.

(iv) Launch of 50,000 MW hydro initiative for coordinated development of hydro sector.

(v) Creation of a shelf of sites for locating thermal capacity of over 1,00,000 MW by Central Electricity Authority.

(vi) Dispensation of requirement of Techno-economic Clearance for setting up of thermal projects to speed up sanction process.

(vii) Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation have mobilized themselves to see that the good projects are not hampered due to lack of funds.